

Landowner Association (LOA) Permit Number Recommendations 2010

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- Permit recommendations by the Division are based upon a process grounded in the rule (R657-43).
- The Division uses the amount of land that is included in the Landowner Association and the number of Limited Entry (LE) permits available to the public on a unit the previous year. This determines the number of permits that the LOA is eligible for during the coming hunting season.

Example:

- 50 LE bull elk permits authorized on LE unit
 - A given LOA comprises 25% of LE elk range on LE unit
 - therefore:

.25 x 50 LE bull elk permits = 13 (round up) total LOA permits

- The Division is recommending approval for 11 of the 15 LOA applications that were received for the 2010 hunting season
- Four of the 15 LOA's are requesting more permits than they qualify for by rule based on the above example
- One LOA is requesting their permits as premium permits if they are not approved for more permits than they qualify for
 - The rule only provides limited entry permits for LOA's not premium permits
- The Division is recommending conditional approval for one LOA that does not meet the required 51% private lands represented in a LOA
 - This LOA must meet the requirements by May 1st, 2010

If you have any questions please call me or email me at the above phone number or email address. Additional information is attached.

2010 Limited Entry Landowner Association Permit Recommendations

LOA	Region	Hunt Unit Number	Landowner Association Name and Hunt Unit Name	Permits Requested			DWR Recommend		
				Deer	Elk	Prong	Deer	Elk	Prong
Deep Creek	CR	19	West Desert, Deep Creek		1			1	
Vernon	CR	19	West Desert, Vernon	35			24		
Bookcliffs	NER	10	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	32	10	4	32	10	4
Diamond Mountain	NER	9	South Slope, Diamond Mountain	44	46		44	46	
Three Corners	NER	8	North Slope, Three Corners		5			5	
Elk Ridge	SER	14	San Juan	2			2		
San Juan Elk	SER	14	San Juan		6			6	
Indian Peaks	SR	20	Southwest Desert		3			2	
Monroe Mountain	SR	23	Monroe		7			7	
Oak Creek	SR	21a	Fillmore, Oak Creek		8			8	
Pahvant Mt.	SR		Fillmore, Pahvant		7			7	
Panquitch Lake	SR	28	Pangitch Lake		7			7	
Paunsaugunt	SR	27	Paunsaugunt	20			18		
Paunsaugunt Elk	SR	27	Paunsaugunt		2			2	
South Fork Sevier River	SR	24/27	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt			6			5
				133	101	10	120	100	9

Aug 24, 2009

To Whom It May Concern: RAC + Big Game Board

The Indian Peaks Landowners Assoc feel we should get 3 Bull Elk Tags.

1. We have done many projects on our private land, that benefit the wildlife as well as the livestock. They include water wells, ponds, other water projects, fences, brush treatments, seedings + tree thinning. The elk don't stay off the new seedings, They damage spring developments, fences etc. People that come to see or hunt them do damage also.
2. I realize we can't count BLM land, but we pay grazing fees, when the elk use the feed we don't get what we paid for.
3. If we only get the 2 tags the DWR recommends, they should be premium tags. We do much more for wildlife than dedicated hunters and they can hunt all 3 hunts.
4. Elk are suppose to be counted this winter. The numbers could be up, so permits could be up as well.
5. The DWR get the fees for the tags, if we get them or the public,

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6. DWR use all BLM + State Trust land acres in the elk habitat area to figure the percentages - most of this land is covered with pinon/junipers where there is not much feed.
 7. The elk numbers are over objective in our area.
- Thank you

Indian Peaks Landowners Assoc.

2010 INDIAN PEAKS LANDOWNER ELK PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Indian Peaks Landowner Association, which includes the majority of landowners who have elk on their private lands, has requested three (3) bull elk permits for their landowners association for 2010. (Their justification is included in the application submission). The Division of Wildlife Resources recommendation is for two (2) bull permits for this association in 2010. Following is a rationale for the Division's position:

The Southwest Desert elk unit is operating under an approved management plan that establishes the elk herd at 975 elk (estimated). The latest count (Jan 2007) indicated that about 1200 elk were present on this herd unit during the wintertime. The DWR is attempting to maintain the herd at or near objective using antlerless permits and mitigation permits. 700+ antlerless and 250+ bull permits have been issued over the past three years to assist in reducing the population to its objective.

The management plan for this unit directs management toward trophy bulls with an average age of 6-7 years old on all harvested elk. The quality of bulls harvested is among the best in the state. It is realistic to assume that a unit-wide bull permit for a September (i.e. bugling) hunt on this unit, based on comparable and/or identical permits on the open market, is worth at least \$20,000, which is what the Association indicates the permits have sold for the past several years.

Elk use on all the private properties within the landowner association are on native or improved rangelands. There are no cultivated crops belonging to members of the association of any magnitude involved in depredation situations. Given the value of a September bull elk permit (roughly \$20,000), and a 2009 AUM value for Federal lands of \$1.35, the recommended permits should purchase 29,630 cattle AUM's, or 62,223 elk AUM's (based on 2.1 elk AUM /cattle AUM) for the private lands. This recommendation equates to a total compensation for 5,185 elk year-round (i.e. for 12 months) on the private property within the LOA. If private land AUM's are sold for more than the Federal charge, then fewer AUM's could be purchased than this amount.

The distribution of elk on the Southwest Desert herd unit is much clearer due to past telemetry studies. It is obvious that there have been many misconceptions about elk numbers and distributions in the past. Some of the elk that have been radio-tracked have home ranges of 150-200 square miles. This has led to some great misconceptions concerning elk residency, distribution and numbers. Looked at over the entire herd unit, approximately 909,000 acres are regularly used at some level and in some seasons by elk. Of this area, about 400 of the total elk use the Mountain Home Range, at least seasonally. In this latter area, about 80 acres are lands controlled by the members of the association.

On the Indian Peak Range, there are 10,400 acres owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources that have been extensively treated and managed specifically for elk use, including road closures, eliminating antlerless elk hunting, water developments, burns and reseeded. Elk use on this property has become extensive during all seasons other than severe winters, and has *significantly* increased during recent years. Overall, the landowners are requesting 8% of the total any-weapon September bull permits, and 3% of the total trophy bull permits issued for this unit in 2009. Their actual holdings (19,065.76 acres) are about 2.1% of the overall elk use area. The LOA is requesting one any-weapon permit/6355 acres of private lands within their association. The public was issued (in 2009) 1 any-weapon trophy permit (including September, late season, and Premium permits)/16,836 acres, and total permits equal to 1-permit/9775 acres, of total elk range on the unit.

A further controversy on this unit has been the effect of spring elk use on spring ranges. The Division and the BLM have cooperatively initiated a series of vegetative studies on areas of high spring elk use on BLM lands within the unit. During the years of the studies, total spring use (elk, deer, antelope, lagomorphs and wild horses) has averaged less than 5%. This clearly illustrates the actual level of elk use on spring ranges.

In the past 4 years DWR assisted private landowners involved in the association to complete 9,000+ acres of habitat work in the elk use area. Of that 2,515 acres was on private lands, the remaining on was on BLM and SITLA lands leased by LOA members. In the fall of 2009 an additional 5600 acres will be treated. All of these projects have and will benefit both wildlife and livestock (see attached list). In the same time frame 298 acres was treated on the Divisions Indian Peaks WMA for wildlife.

In summary, the Division feels that two (2) any weapon permits is more than fair compensation for actual elk use on private lands, based on the current permit market value, and given that elk utilize private lands (except for lands in and around the Indian Peaks WMA) more than they do most public lands on this unit. The Division does not support the landowner request for 3 permits or that the two permits issued be premium for 2010; instead recommend the 2 early season any weapon permits they have received during recent years.

Habitat projects completed in the past four years.

- Private – Bowler chaining and seeding – 853 acres
Paradise Burn seeding and chaining – 1162 acres seeded, 427 of that was chained and seeded.
Flinspach Dixie Harrow and seeding – 500 acres
- BLM - Mtn. Home Dixie Harrow and seeding – 950 acres
Paradise Burn seeding and chaining – 4249 acres seeded, 500 of that chained and seeded.
- SITLA - Salt Cabin chaining and seeding – 729 acres
Greens Canyon lop and scatter – 424 acres
- DWR - Indian Peaks WMA lop and scatter -298 acres

Upcoming project for the Fall of 2009.

- SITLA/BLM - Keel Springs SITLA/Broken Ridge Fire Chain and Seed – 5600 acres will be seeded and 3500 acres of the that will be both chained and seeded.

2010 PAUNSAUGUNT DEER LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION PERMIT RECOMMENDATION

A discrepancy exists in the permit recommendation for the Paunsaugunt Deer Landowners Association (PDLA) in the 2010 application. The reason for the discrepancy is due to an accepted proposal at the March 2009 BBOIL RAC where permit numbers were set. Several organizations and entities including the CWMU and PDLA were represented by the Friends of the Paunsaugunt in making a proposal to cut the public trophy Paunsaugunt permits by 10% for the 2009 season. As part of their proposal, they agreed to take a 10% cut of permits issued to the CWMU and PDLA. The UDWR recommendation of 18 permits instead of 20 permits is consistent with their proposal.

2010 MT DUTTON / PAUNSAUGUNT PRONGHORN LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION PERMIT RECOMMENDATION

The reason for the permit discrepancy for the Mt Dutton / Paunsaugunt Landowners Association is in response to the association coming into compliance with the 51% rule. In their 2009 application, the MPLA was under 51% of private lands on the unit and needed to recruit additional acreage to be approved as an association. The MPLA was able to recruit 3 landowners that owned over 8,000 acres bringing them into compliance. In an effort to be fair, the president requested 6 permits for 2010 to give to the 6 main entities (used to be 3) enrolled in the MPLA. The MPLA consists of 16,357 acres, or 9.4% of the species habitat acres on the unit. There were 50 permits issued to the public in 2009, therefore they are eligible for 5 permits ($9.4\% \times 50 = 4.7$ permits), which is the recommendation.